(a) whether Government is considering to establish more Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) in the country to cater to the needs of the States keeping in view the accessibility to various region of the country;

(b) if so, the time by which these are likely to be established; and

(c) whether Gujarat is covered for establishing an IISER?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (SAC-PM) under the Chairmanship Prof. C.N.R. Rao, five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) have been established at Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. At present, there is no proposal to establish any more IISERs in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Single Board for School Examination

1872. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI D. RAJA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to establish a single board for school examinations instead of the current system of several State level and two National Boards CBSE and ICSE and for making the class X Board exam optional;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to hold any consultation with the State Governments before taking a final decision on such a wide school reforms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal before the Government at present.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Overhauling of Teacher's Training Programme

1873. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of teaching is woefully inadequate and massive overhauling of teacher's training programme is required to improve the quality of education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures are being taken in this direction?